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THE DAILY STANDARD, printed and published daily by A. DECOSMOS, at his office, next door to Bank of British Columbia, Government street.

# THE VICTORIA DAILY STANDARD.

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**THE DAILY STANDARD.**  
A. DECOSMOS,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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**The Daily Standard.**

**Wednesday, June 22, 1870.**

**Government by Public Meeting.**

British Columbia wants Government by Public Meeting. England and most of her Colonies have it. Ireland will, in the opinion of some, soon have repeal of the union, and Government by her own public meeting. The United States, with all its States and Territories, enjoy to the fullest extent the right of Government by public meeting. Italy, Austria, Prussia, Switzerland, Spain, and nearly all the other European States, except Russia, have Government by public meeting, either in a greater or in lesser degree of perfection. The recent plaudits under Louis Napoleon and Emile Olivier have established the principle in France. All the Spanish-American States, revolutionary and anarchical as they may be, are in the enjoyment of government by public meeting. Only the other day Rio de Janeiro, the Ottawa Government to concede the principle to ten or fifteen thousand people in Central North America. In fact, the aspiration of mankind is for Government by Public Meeting. Patriarchal Governments are rapidly coming to an end. Asiatic and African races and nationalities only perpetuate them. Among other races where the principle is not conceded and is not in operation, it is recognised as a right withheld. Government by public meeting is neither more nor less than Representative Government. Language deceives us; for when we say Parliament, Chamber of Deputies, Commons, Congress, Assembly, or Legislature, we from habit think that these words mean something else rather than a public meeting. But it appears to be a common mistake. Science applied to the phenomena of society, as it is done to other departments of natural history, may resolve governments into Orders, Genera, and Species; and thus the European and American Governments may be classed under the following heads: Order, Public Meeting; Genus, Republican or Monarchical; Species, Suffrage, Universal or Partial. A Representative body whether an Assembly, Congress, or Parliament, is made up simply of a number of men whom the people of different localities order to assemble in a public meeting and whose resolutions passed in their collective capacity the people deem the Supreme Law binding on all, as well as on all those who sent them.

In the United States this form of Government has been carried to a higher degree of perfection, or at least to a greater extreme than in any other part of the world; and we may safely venture the assertion that in no other country since Morning first dawned on the World has there been such rapid, wide-spread, and general material prosperity as has been witnessed there. Now, notwithstanding the Colonist pronounced the meeting over which Mayor Trimble recently presided, "an unfortunate meeting," notwithstanding the Cariboo Sentinel has echoed the words "that unfortunate meeting,"—and also utterly regardless of the circular warning against public meetings in the letter of Governor Macgillivray to the Mayor,—we say, in the name and in behalf of the people of this country; "we, British Columbians, want Government by public meeting. It is our right. We will have it. We are the owners of this country. We found it an impenetrable wilderness,—an unexplored desert, except to the trapper,—a terra incognita. We have built two cities, a dozen towns, cut out hundreds of miles of trails, constructed hundreds of miles of gold road, paid out at least five millions of dollars in taxes, spread civilization over a territory five hundred miles square and the name of the country throughout the world,—and through the extravagance, or mismanagement, or bad luck of our political guardians we are a million of dollars in debt. Now we are of age. We are beard-

ed men. We want the estate. Let the temporary possessors pack up their duds, take their pensions, and quit-claim the country. We have been in the political nursery long enough. We now want government by public meeting,—and we want it at once. We are not disposed to allow the present office-holders a longer lease of office than will suffice to enable them to balance the books, and quietly resign the reins of power." Such are the sentiments of the people of this country,—of the large majority, who are co-incident of their capacity to manage their own affairs. Consequently we ask: When shall we hold a public meeting to notify the Government that we want a new Constitution for this Colony that will suit the people, Confederation or no Confederation?

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Hats, Scarves and various other Goods  
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All orders promptly attended to and satisfaction guaranteed.  
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200 CORDS CHOICE  
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# The Daily Standard

Wednesday, June 23, 1870.

We publish to-day the remainder of the speech of Mr. DeCosmos in Committee on the financial terms of Confederation. The concluding portion of his speech embraces the financial terms which he considered the colony ought to make with Canada.

Hon. Mr. DeCosmos said:

**Helmecken's Reply.**  
The Hon. Mr. Helmecken, Member for Victoria City, said:—The Honorable gentleman says in fact, we should go to Canada and say we want \$250,000. I say we don't want to be Confederated. Canada wants Confederation. We don't ask Canada, Canada asks us to be Confederated. I agree that we ought to have \$250,000 from Canada at least. The Hon. Member who has just spoken, attempts to show that Canadian manufactures will come in free. Twenty years hence Canadian manufactures may come in, but I will not go into that question; why should Canada complain of her goods coming in? What she gains will be more than she loses. She desires a larger market for her manufactures, and she must pay us for that; she cannot complain that she is losing by supplying us with her manufactured goods. The Hon. Member for Victoria District (Mr. DeCosmos) says that equalization of labor, and of value of property and productions, will come about. I admit that it may be so, but in my opinion it will not be for some years to come; if there is equalization of labor, there will also be equalization of taxation and offices. The Local Government can look after this when it happens. I do not suppose that Canada will be disposed to look at our terms critically; they are getting the Colony for too cheap. I think \$250,000 is too cheap. The Hon. gentleman (Mr. DeCosmos) says that we should go to Canada and ask \$80,000 per annum, because another Province has the same, and that this Colony, which is larger in extent of territory, is getting the Colony for too cheap. I think \$80,000 is too little. The Hon. gentleman must recollect that we do not produce revenue equal to what the other Provinces produce. With regard to the limit of population for the purposes of representation, I think \$80,000 is too small. I ought to have been 1,000,000, not indefinite. 120,000 gives us the right to have eight members to represent us; this is a matter of expediency. There is a fault in the resolution to which I will draw attention; it is this, that we do not get any increase of Revenue to the Colony until we get a population of over 120,000 persons. We have to calculate what our Revenue will be now under Confederation, and we cannot look for any increase for years to come. Which ever we look at it, the figures come back to the same, we want \$250,000, and there are several ways in which we can get it in point of fact we ask Canada to lend us that sum of money.

**\$250,000 more than Government Scheme.**  
Hon. Mr. DeCosmos—My proposition would give \$250,000 more than the Government scheme and set free Internal Revenue for local or Municipal purposes.

Hon. Mr. Helmecken—The Hon. Member wants \$150,000 now, and as the population increases the sum is to decrease.

Hon. Mr. DeCosmos—It could always have \$150,000, with our present or a greater population.

Hon. Mr. Helmecken—The long and the short of the story is, that the two propositions amount to much the same thing. We go to Canada and say we want \$250,000. According to this scheme, Canada will only be out of pocket \$128,000. I say that Canada's expenses will diminish in two years from this time by \$80,000, so that Canada will only be paying \$48,000 a year. This is a very small rate of payment, far too low in my opinion. I say, Sir, that if one thousand miners go to Peace River this year, our revenue will be increased by \$100,000, and if Peace River succeeds, "as out well" as the saying is, I am quite certain that \$250,000 a year will not purchase this Colony. If Peace River is a failure, Canada may get it.

The Hon. Mr. Helmecken, Member for Lillooet, said: Sir, I rise to support the amendment of my Hon. colleague (Mr. DeCosmos). In my opinion, Sir, the magnificent, bold, and statesmanlike scheme propounded by the Hon. Member for Victoria District (Mr. DeCosmos) has entirely demolished that of the Government. I think that the proposition laid down by the Hon. Member for Victoria District (Mr. DeCosmos) is worthy of the serious attention and consideration of this House. I should like, Sir, to see a scheme carefully laid down, which would involve no subsequent reflection and troubles, such as we have seen in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; it is better to go through all the squabbling and discussion that we have to do in this House now, than leave it to involve us in serious trouble hereafter.

Hon. Mr. DeCosmos—The Hon. Member says that the scheme proposed by the Hon. Member for Victoria District has quite demolished that of the Government. I should be glad to hear the Hon. Member for Lillooet point out the distinguishing differences between the two schemes.

Hon. Mr. Helmecken—The difference is apparent. I think that I have said enough to show this Council the advantages of the scheme propounded by my Hon. friend; if Hon. Members cannot see differences which are so plain, it is not for me to supply them with brains.

**DeCosmos' Reply and Resolution.**  
Hon. Mr. DeCosmos—Mr. Chairman, the credit of the Government proposition now before us has been given to the Hon. Member for Victoria (Mr. Helmecken). Now, Sir, I am perfectly content that he should enjoy the credit, and the whole credit. In speaking briefly he has quoted a word used by myself—"expediency." Now, I again say, the whole thing is a matter of expediency. I have not heard anything, however, either from that Hon. gentleman or others who followed me, to disturb the solid foundation of my scheme, resting as it does on truth and fact, and a plain outspoken statement of our monetary requirements. I have always said that this question of Confederation was one of a monetary character—that it had a money value, and I maintain, as I have always done, without shadow of turning, that we ought to have a surplus revenue of about \$200,000 on entering the Dominion. I have always said that we must have that surplus, or its equivalent with Confederation. That is the point round which I have been revolving. I have made no stride in advance, none to the rear; the Hon. gentleman opposite to the contrary. I have ever kept before the public the same idea, that when the terms of union were negotiated, they must bring that sum in a surplus revenue into our Treasury. It was a simple point that every one could understand and not forget. It is the sum that I asked at first; it is the sum that I ask now; and it is the sum that I propose now in amendment to the Resolution of the Government. The real surplus of the Government scheme is so far below what it ought to be that it will be repudiated as an absolute failure, if ever it comes before the people for ratification. They will reject it. It will create just as much

dissatisfaction here as there was felt in Nova Scotia.

I will now, Sir, as I promised, move the following as a recommendation to His Excellency, and in substitution of Resolutions 2 and 3:—

1. That the Council recommend to His Excellency the Governor, the following Resolution for his consideration: The population of British Columbia shall be estimated at 40,000. 2. The following sums shall be paid semi-annually by Canada to British Columbia for the support of the Local Government and Legislature, to wit:—An annual grant of \$80,000, and a further sum of 80 cents per head per annum of the population, both payable half-yearly in advance, the population of British Columbia being estimated as aforesaid. Such grant of 80 cents per head to be augmented till the population shall be shown to be One Million, at which number it shall thereafter remain. Canada shall also pay to British Columbia, in semi-annual advances, the sum of \$150,000 per annum, which shall from time to time be reduced in proportion as the population may exceed 40,000.

**Would Support a Part.**  
Hon. Member for New Westminster—I object to the basis of population being changed, otherwise I would support some part of the recommendation.

**Alston Endorses Amendment.**  
The Hon. Mr. Alston (Registrar General) said:—This being a Government measure, I shall support the Resolutions, but I shall at the same time be prepared to give my assent and support to any sensible recommendations that are proposed. It strikes me that the Resolution of the Hon. Member for Victoria District (Mr. DeCosmos) is based on proper grounds. It is a mistake to say that the allowance for representation is based on a fictitious estimate of population. The Executive Council must have estimated it on the area and extent of the Colony. I believe that our representation would accord with the recommendation of the Hon. Member for Victoria District. I do not think that Canada is advancing in the direction of free trade. Her advance is more likely, in my opinion, to be towards protection. I have no doubt that Confederation will open the door for Canadian goods to be brought in. I have no hesitation in voting for a larger subsidy, because I believe that, in a few years, from the increase in our revenue, Canada will have very little to pay, and in the Government Resolutions there is no suggestion for any refund from Canada, if the Customs Duties should amount to a very large sum. I shall, therefore, vote for the Resolutions, but I shall support the recommendation of the Hon. Member for Victoria District, because I consider that it is grounded on common sense.

**Barnard Don't.**  
Hon. Mr. Barnard, Member for Yale said:—Mr. Chairman, I shall support the Government proposition as it now stands, particularly the estimate of 120,000. New Brunswick, with a population of 250,000, is entitled to fifteen members in the Dominion House of Commons. If the basis of representation is to be taken from population, then 40,000 would only entitle us to two members in the House of Commons instead of eight. For that reason, in my opinion, if for no other, 120,000 ought to stand. Besides, as a matter of fact, our population exceeds 40,000. There is not an Indian in the Colony who does not contribute as much to the revenue as a Canadian. They are entitled to be represented as well as white men. Eight Members in the House of Commons is a very small number, being suggested, almost the balance of power between parties; eight, standing firmly together, will have great influence, but what would be our influence?

The recommendation of the Hon. Mr. DeCosmos was lost—Ayes 5, Noes 14.

**CHARLES VEREYDHEEN, ARCHITECT & CONTRACTOR.**  
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